DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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FDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑

RELEASE DENIED☐

PA Officer concurred

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MONDAY
MARCH 1, 1954

Blankenhorn called me this morning saying he had communicated the substance of our yesterday's conversation to the Chancellor and the Chancellor had decided to tell Bidault he would like a meeting before his trip to Greece on March 8 for the purpose of discussing the Saar. Blankenhorn expected a confirmation of this by letter today which he or the German Chargé d'Affaires will deliver to the Quai d'Orsay. I wrote the following letter to Livie Merchant today:

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"Dear Livie:

"Last Friday I called Jim Conant about the Saar problem. I found he was in Berlin and therefore had not read our cables on the subject since they had not yet been repeated from Bonn. He told me to go ahead and send a personal message to the Chancellor through Red Dowling saying I thought it was most important that Adenauer should immediately reply to Bidault stating his willingness and desire to meet him during the course of the following week before the Chancellor departed for Greece.

"On Saturday I received a message that Blankenhorn would be in Paris that night and would see me Sunday.

"I talked to Blankenhorn Sunday on this matter, pointed out to him the great importance of it, and told him of the articles in the French press which asserted a disbelief in the Chancellor's intention of meeting Bidault or of entering upon a serious discussion of the Saar.

"Blankenhorn was in agreement with our views and said he would immediately communicate with Bonn and try to get an appropriate reply from the Chancellor.

"This morning Blankenhorn called me and said the Chancellor would at once send a letter to Bidault -- to be delivered in Paris Tuesday -- suggesting a meeting between the two on Saturday of this week.

"I told Blankenhorn this was unsatisfactory since it meant the loss of a day and asked him to obtain permission to have the text of the proposed message telegraphed to him for delivery to the Quai d'Orsay this afternoon. This, I hope, will be done.

"It is evident from Blankenhorn's account that the Chancellor will take the Council of Europe report as a basis for agreement in principle with the exception of the article relating to the joinder of the Federal Republic with the occupying powers in making an agreement binding at the time of the peace treaty. This would not preclude, in Blankenhorn's opinion, the U.S., U.K., and France from stating at a separate time and in a separate document their intention to support the terms of this accord when the final treaty is under scrutiny. The obvious reason the Germans can give

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for rejecting this article is that a future all-German government cannot be bound by obligations contracted by one of its parts.

"I had lunch today with Maurice Schumann, who says that Bidault does not want to meet Adenauer this week since he thinks there should be preliminary negotiations, with finalization to take place toward the end of the month. I pointed out to Schumann the serious dangers inherent in such a decision and asked him to represent them to Bidault in the strongest terms, which he undertook to do.

"This leads me to a delicate question, but one which under the circumstances I feel bound to raise.

"There is no one in Bonn or in our Embassy in Paris conversant enough with this problem to deal with it without messing up the necessary coordination. In this connection, the United States should speak with one voice, particularly if at the last minute it appears desirable for us, and perhaps the United Kingdom, to intervene. I have reason to believe that Jim Conant would prefer to have this matter handled centrally from my office. I wonder if the Department should not give thought to communicating with Bonn and Paris and, in the absence of objections from either end, to instructing me to take charge of any negotiations that may prove necessary affecting the Saar matter. I suggest this particularly since I can foresee great difficulties arising from people without the necessary background expressing offhand opinions as to what might or might not be done.

"I hope the two parties can work this out between themselves and that further representations from the United States side will prove unnecessary. I am reluctant to urge this course. I have no personal desire whatever to undertake this responsibility, but this whole affair has now reached such a delicate stage that it seems to me some one person must be responsible for it. It is quite impossible to consult the Embassy and the High Commissioner in Bonn each time a question comes up in this connection.

"If, for any of a variety of reasons which I can well conceive, the Department disfavors the method proposed by me, please forget the whole thing. However, I do think it would be well if you could at least talk it over with Bedell and anyone else whom you consider appropriate.

"The whole situation here in regard to EDC is quite maddening but that does not represent anything novel. I am engaged in so many intrigues, even including newspaper leaks, that I am not clear in my own judgment as to how our cause is progressing, or even if it is retrograding. Members of the French Government are finding many excuses for postponement, and even such outside stalwarts as Robert Schuman think nothing should be done before autumn. Threats and cajolery, flattery and grandfatherly admonitions are being employed to the best of our ability. Whether they will prove effective remains to be seen. Personally, I think a postponement or a refusal by the French Government to decide on an EDC debate to commence before the Easter

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recess of Parliament would be a disaster, the full extent of which it is impossible at the moment to evaluate.

Very sincerely yours,

David Bruce

"P.S. I had a very satisfactory trip to Belgium and everything seems set for a large majority in the Senate. I was not able to stay as long as I had expected in Italy, but did see some of the key politicians. I'll write you later about this and limit myself now to remarking that, as concerns EDC, I was told by the Monarchists they were ready to vote for it, irrespective of the Trieste problem or any domestic considerations."

George Pratt came to see me this morning. He has left the Government service after many years because of a situation in the Department of the Interior where they wanted to get rid of him, presumably on account of his having, as a Democrat, served under the preceding Administration. He is now a consultant for waterpower projects in various parts of the world and has just returned here from India and Pakistan. He is about to go off to Egypt. He said that when he was working for me in London in OSS he had been the officer in charge of "keeping Ollenauer from starving". Ollenauer, in return, was [redacted] helpful in recruiting Germans, some dozens of whom were later dropped by parachute into Germany toward the close of the war. Pratt thinks him a man of high character but lacking in aggressive force. He said Ollenauer was deeply grateful for his weekly stipend from the OSS of 10 or 12 pounds. Pratt has not seen his German friend for some years but hopes to do so shortly.

Bill Tyler called by to say farewell. He is leaving for his new position in the Department the end of this week.

Maurice Schumann came to lunch with me. I told him he or Bidault would shortly hear from Adenauer of the Chancellor's wish to discuss the Saar question the end of this week. Schumann answered that Bidault thought there was no hurry

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about this, that it could be dealt with by subordinates and he and Adenauer could finally settle it the end of the month. I told him this proposed course of action would seem [redacted] to doom any hope of proceeding to a debate on EDC before the Easter recess, and if it were divulged that Bidault had not arranged to meet Adenauer the repercussions on the French Government might be of an [redacted] unfavorable nature.

We discussed various other matters and I sensed a diminution of Schumann's former zeal to push the debate. I protested against any slackening of such an effort and told him in my opinion the support that might be accorded France at the Geneva Conference might be deleteriously affected by failure on the part of the French Government to debate EDC previous to the opening of that Conference.

David Schoenbrun came to see me with a bagful of pessimistic reports as to Laniel's lack of determination to face this issue.

Blankenhorn reported to me tonight that an oral message from the Chancellor had been delivered by him to François-Poncet. I will send a telegram to the Department [redacted] to reach there before opening hours tomorrow.

I talked to Jim Conant on the telephone about this whole affair today and he is confident that, or the German side, it is in good shape.

Odeile de Guiche came to dinner with me tonight.

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